

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

BAGLA TV & BTV

Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup

Gokulam Kerala v Chennai

Time: 4:00pm

Terengganu FC v Bashundhara Kings

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chattogram

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

English Premier League

Man City v Aston Villa

Live from 5:30pm

West Ham v Sheffield

Live from 8:00pm

Burnley v Chelsea

Live from 10:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bundesliga

Schalke v Dortmund

Live from 7:30pm

TEN 2

Serie A

Lecce v Juventus

Live from 7:00pm

Inter Milan v Parma

Live from 10:00pm

Genoa v Brescia

Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

Sheikh Kamal Int'l Club Cup

Gokulam Kerala v Chennai

Time: 4:00pm

Terengganu FC v Bashundhara Kings

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National Cricket League

Four-Day Match, Day One

Time (All Matches): 9:00am

Dhaka Div v Khulna

Venue: SKICS, Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi v Rangpur

Venue: SKICS, Cox's Bazar

Barisal v Dhaka

Venue: SCS, Bogra

Chattogram v Sylhet

Venue: SKS, Rajshahi

# Ctg Abahani, Mohun Bagan thru' Kings sans Bruzon in must-win game

ATIQUÉ ANAM from Chattogram

Chattogram Abahani moved into the semifinals of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup as champions of Group A despite a 1-0 defeat against Mohun Bagan in their last group match at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

The host team, who rested six key players from their starting eleven after having all but confirmed their last-four berth with a game in hand, finished with six points alongside Mohun Bagan and Young Elephants.

Mohun Bagan finished second on goal-difference while Young Elephants, who beat TC Sports earlier in the day, missed out on qualification.

Chattogram Abahani coach Maruful Haque, in the post-match press conference, claimed he had the intention of giving complete rest to those six players including skipper Jamal Bhuiyan and striker Chinedu Matthew, but the team received a

Young Elephants 2 – 1 TC Sports	(Bounkong 18', 60')	(Samir 78')
Ctg Abahani 0 – 1 Mohun Bagan		(Suhair 60')

confusing message from one of the match officials that a defeat would send them out of the competition.

"I wanted to give complete rest to those players as the semifinal match was very near and considering the equation. But a message was relayed to us at around 55 minutes ahead of the game that we would not qualify if we lose. Then I made the substitutions [sending in Jamal, Matthew and Arifur Rahman]. Later we were told the initial message was

A Mohun Bagan player (R) heads the ball during their Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup match against Chattogram Abahani at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

wrong" the coach said.

"We didn't play badly, just made a few mistakes and one of those mistakes cost us the game," Maruful added.

The battle between two clubs from the two parts of Bengal had attracted a full-house crowd at the premier football venue of the port city last night, but the hosts failed to replicate their dominating performance of the last two matches.

However, the hosts kept Mohun Bagan at bay in the first hour as there was hardly any notable scoring chances from either side in

the first 45 minutes.

But Mohun Bagan, who needed a victory to qualify, broke the deadlock on the hour-mark when Suhair Vadakkepeedika shrugged off Plane Petar's arms around him and smashed one home with a powerful diagonal volley.

Both teams had a few half-chances to convert thereafter, but Chattogram failed to raise their game, with Luka Rotkovic failing to score from close range. Mohun Bagan, on the other hand, were overjoyed at having made it to the last four despite an unimpressive

start to the tournament.

### DEFENDING CHAMPIONS LEAVE EMPTY-HANDED

Champions of the 2017 edition TC Sports Club finished their campaign without a single point following their 2-1 defeat against Young Elephants in the first match of the day.

Captain Bounphachan Bounkong opened the scoring on 18 minutes and doubled his team's lead 15 minutes after restart with two clinical efforts. Mohamed Samir reduced the margin for the Maldivian outfit before the Laotians wasted a few chances to increase the winning margin.

## Katsumi slapped with two-match suspension

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings will play their must-win game against Terengganu FC of Malaysia today without their tempestuous coach Oscar Bruzon in the dug-out.

The Spanish coach raged out the technical area and went towards the opposition dug-out following a foul on one of his players by a Chennai City player, provoking a heated response from his opposite number Akbar Nawas. Both coaches were expelled from the dug-out after that and, on analysing the referee's and match commissioner's reports, the disciplinary committee of the tournament, chaired by Mezbah Uddin, handed one-match suspension to both coaches. In absence of Bruzon, assistant coach Mahbub Hossain Roxy would stand in the dug-out against table-toppers Terengganu FC. The team management is expecting to fortify the defence which has been a cause for worry for the Bangladesh Premier League champions, who conceded five goals against four goals in two matches.

Bruzon though, did not cool down despite his suspension as the Chennai City team officials claimed the Spaniard used abusive words in Spanish against some of their players on the morning after the match at the team hotel, a claim admitted to by a member of the technical staff of Bashundhara Kings.

"The coach did not do the right thing by charging out of his technical area. He realised that and lamented his reaction afterwards," the Bashundhara Kings official said.

Bruzon, who coached a few clubs in

India, has a history of such behaviour as he had tried to assault a referee during a Bangladesh Premier League match against Team BJMC in Noakhali last season.

Meanwhile, Chennai City's Japanese midfielder Katsumi Yusa, who kicked the fourth official's desk and tried to assault referee Lakmal Weerakkody after the Sri Lankan allegedly used a racial remark against the player, has been handed a two-match suspension by the committee.

The Japanese midfielder, however, defended his action, saying he lost his cool after being targeted with a racial remark by the referee.

"I was standing with my back to the referee, with the ball in my hand. The referee suddenly said, 'China'. I looked back at him and he had a smile on his face. He could see my shirt number and my name, but he didn't call me by either, instead calling me 'China'," Katsumi told reporters at the team hotel yesterday.

The midfielder, who played for Mohun Bagan and East Bengal before moving to Chennai City, said he felt betrayed by the actions of someone who is supposed to be neutral.

"I had taken verbal abuse from fans a lot, especially during derby matches in Kolkata. Even opposition players say a lot of things, but that is different. I never thought of getting this from a referee, who is supposed to be neutral and a partner of the players.

"I went to the dressing room and sat there, crying. I thought I'm finished and I should go back to Japan," Katsumi said.

Chennai City FC had filed a complaint against the referee to the referee's assessor who will send a report on referees to the Asian Football Confederation.

# MU eke out rare away win

AFP, Paris

Manchester United made an emotional return to Belgrade on Thursday and, after a ceremony to remember the 'Busby Babes', eked out a first away win since March, 1-0, over Partizan.

Anthony Martial scored the only goal of the Europa League Group L game with a penalty kick after 43 minutes, but the hosts had eight strikes on target to just three by United.

The game marked the return to the ground where Matt Busby's famous team of talented youngsters played their last game, a European Cup quarterfinal against Red Star in February 1958.

The plane crashed in Munich on the way home and seven United players were among the 23 who died.

United had only played in Belgrade once since then, when they lost a European Cup semifinal to Partizan in 1966.

For the match, United made eight changes from the team that drew at home with Liverpool on Sunday.

Teenagers Brandon Williams and James Garner came into the team.

Williams, playing wing back, made a decisive contribution in the 43rd minute when he burst into the Partizan box and drew wild tackles from two home defenders. Martial rolled the penalty into the corner of the goal.

United spent much of the match defending.

Partizan's Nigerian centre forward Umar Sadiq was dangerous throughout, hitting the post just before Martial's goal and fizzing another shot just wide. Guinean Seydoubah Soumah and Japanese Takumah Asano both forced tricky saves from Sergio Romero.

"We expected a hostile environment but we got the win," said United defender Phil Jones. "I thought Garner and Williams were outstanding."

United can ensure a spot in the knockout rounds if the beat Partizan at Old Trafford on matchday four.

In a game in Bratislava, played in an unusual atmosphere after Slovan side-stepped a stadium ban for racism by giving 21,000 tickets to children, Wolves fought back from a goal down

to win 2-1.

Andraz Sporar gave the home team an 11th minute lead in the Group K tie.

Romain Saiss levelled in the 58th minute with a low, long-range shot that bobbed through goalie Dominik Greif's legs

Six minutes later, Vernon DeMarco gave Raul Jimenez a shove in front of goal and the Wolves striker scored the winner from the resulting penalty.

Diogo Jota collected one yellow card after 86 minutes and another one minute later, but Wolves held on to win away for the fifth time in Europe this season.

"We managed to take what we wanted from the game," Nuno Espirito Santo, the Wolves manager, told BT, the British broadcaster. "Our aim is to enjoy this competition."

A penalty also proved pivotal in a Group J game in Rome.

Nicolo Zaniolo gave Roma the lead over Borussia Muenchengladbach but Chris Smalling conceded a penalty in the fifth minute of added time and Lars Strindl, a second-half substitute, calmly converted.

Roma stayed top of the group while Gladbach are last.

Samuil Islam (L) and Sonia Akter from BKSP bagged gold medals in the 18-19 age-group's 100m sprint in the 35th National Junior Athletics Championships at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# 9-year-old grabs NCC spot

SPORTS REPORTER

At just nine years old, Candidate Master Manon Reja Neer became the country's youngest player to earn a place in the National Chess Championship (NCC) when the lad from Narayanganj finished sixth in the qualifying round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room on Thursday.

Manon, who along with three other players secured seven points, finished sixth in through the tie-breaking system, dethroning the subcontinent's first Grand Master (GM), Niaz Murshed, in the process. Niaz was the previous record holder for youngest to reach the championships at the age of 10. The current chess sensation, FIDE Master Mohammad Fahad Rahman and Tahsin Tajwar Zia, son of GM Ziaur Rahman, had entered the tournament at the ages of 12 and 13 respectively.

"I started playing in the qualifying round at the age of nine and qualified for the national chess championship at the age of 10," Niaz told the Daily Star. "At that time, we had to play against all the competitors but this time around, the league is being held on the Swiss-league basis."

"I started participating in the qualifying round of the national championship at the age of 10 and qualified for the main competition at the age of 13 in 2018," said Zia, adding that Manon is doing well at junior level competitions.

Manon has been playing at domestic

and international tournaments on a regular basis and proved his talents by winning four gold and one silver medal from the Commonwealth Junior Championship in Delhi, Asian Youth Championship

MANON REJA NEER

in Colombo and Western-Asian Youth Championship in Uzbekistan.

The top ten players of the qualifying round will join others in the National Chess Championship, set to begin on November 1.

## City look to cut gap

AFP, London

Manchester City have the chance to exert some short-term pressure on runaway Premier League leaders Liverpool this weekend as Manchester United look to end their away day blues.

Jürgen Klopp's side saw their long winning streak ended by a hungry United in a draw at Old Trafford last week but still have a comfortable six-point lead over second-placed City.

Guardiola's defending champions can cut that gap to just three points, at least temporarily, if they beat Aston Villa at home on Saturday, while Liverpool have a trickier-looking tie against Spurs the following day.

Frank Lampard's young Chelsea side travel to Burnley on the back of a six-match winning run in all competitions while third-placed Leicester visit Southampton on Friday.

Manchester United will be desperate to put more distance between themselves and the relegation zone but travel to Norwich without an away win in the Premier League since February.

# Footballer wins sprint gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Often referred to as Kylian Mbappe for his nippy runs upfront which resemble that of the Paris Saint-Germain superstar, footballer Samuil Islam became the country's fastest teenager by bagging a gold medal in the 35th National Junior Athletics Championships' 18-19 age-group 100m sprint event yesterday.

Samuil, who plays as a hired striker in the southern region of Bangladesh for his family's bread and butter, clocked in at 11.41 seconds (electronic) to best the other well-trained athletes and win the gold, which was his second in an athletic discipline. Samuil had won a gold medal in the 400m-run event in 2017 for Khulna Division.

"To be honest, I had no preparation for this championship but I had only a few running practice during football training session in Khulna. I had a hope to win at least a medal but I didn't hope to win the gold. However, my confidence grew when I beat BKSP students in heats and started dreaming to win the gold medal," said the stocky Samuil. "No

one else is as happy as me because I beat other prepared athletes without preparation and won the gold medal."

Mohammad Limon of Kurigram and Sultan Ahmed of Natore became second and third by clocking in at 11.50 and 11.53 seconds respectively.

"Actually I love to play football and I am often called Kylian Mbappe for my running upfront. But I also participate in athletics because I have a job at the Crescent Jute Mills in Khulna under BJMC. And that's a reason behind taking part in athletics as BJMC provide me Tk 1850 per week which helps me a lot to support my six-member family," continued Samuil.

Although he dreams of playing professional football in Dhaka, Samuil does not dare to make a move in fear of losing BJMC's financial support.

"My father is sick and can't work, so is his elder son, I am supporting my family by playing football and doing the BJMC job. I can't take the risk of going Dhaka because there is less money in football in the initial stages and if I leave BJMC job, then my family will suffer," said twelfth grader, who claims to have scored 30 to 40 goals in the matches where he was hired.

Meanwhile in the girl's 100m sprint, Sonia Akter from BKSP

bagged the gold medal by clocking in at 12.66 seconds (electronic). Teammate Afria Alin took 13.42 seconds to finish second while Tania of Shariatpur finished third with a timing of 14.07 seconds.

"From the beginning, I believed that I could produce something good and I did it. I am satisfied with the timing, which is my best in electronic timer," said eleventh grader Sonia, who won a gold medal in the U-16-17 age-group event during the 2016 edition.

Apart from the 100m sprints, the opening day of the junior meet saw two national records created in high jump in both sections of both girls (kishori) and boys (Kishor). Julfiker Nayeem Jihan of BKSP cleared 1.96 meters to eclipsing the previous record of 1.95, which was registered by BKSP student Masud Rana in 2017.

### DIFFERENTLY-ABLED BEATS ABLE-BODIED TO BRONZE

In the same event, Selim Reza from Narail, who has had a disability since birth, drew everyone's attention by competing against able-bodied athletes and bagging a high-jump bronze medal by clearing 1.75 meters.

Jannatul of BKSP broke her previous record of 1.61 meters in the girl's U-18-19 age group to set a new record at 1.65 meters.